

ABSTRACT

5        Provided are methods of preparing an article, such as an electrochemical cell, in which a microporous layer is coated on a temporary carrier substrate and a substrate, such as an electrode, is then laminated or contacted to the microporous layer, after or prior to removing the temporary carrier substrate from the microporous layer. The microporous layer comprises one or more microporous xerogel layers comprising a xerogel material, such as a  
10      zirconium oxide xerogel material. Also provided are articles, such as electrochemical cells and separators, prepared by such methods.